STATE OF NEW YORK

8462

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

July 21, 2025

Introduced by Sens. FAHY, SALAZAR, MAYER, KRUEGER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to prohibiting law enforcement officers from wearing any mask or personal disguise while interacting with the public in the performance of their duties

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 838-c to read as follows:

§ 838-c. Masks and disguises prohibited. 1. A law enforcement officer shall not wear any mask or personal disguise while interacting with the public in the performance of their duties, except for medical grade masks that are surgical or N95 respirators designed to prevent the transmission of airborne diseases, masks designed to protect against exposure to smoke during a fire involved situation, masks necessary to perform duties during a water rescue operation, masks related to protection against exposure to biological or chemical agents during an incident where such agents may be present, or masks designed to protect against exposure to cold during a declared weather emergency.

2. Notwithstanding subdivision one of this section, special weapons and tactics (SWAT) team officers are permitted to utilize gear necessary to protect their faces from physical harm while they perform their SWAT responsibilities.

3. All law enforcement officers shall be clearly identified by their name or badge number on their uniforms.

4. For the purposes of this section, "law enforcement officer" shall mean any officer of a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency, or any person acting on behalf of a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency.

5. A violation of this section shall be punishable as a misdemeanor.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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§ 2. Severability clause. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such invalid provisions had not been included herein.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.